Destruction of Mangrove Forest Land in Goa

2259. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the vast destruction of Mangrove Forest land in Goa *i.e.* at San Pedro, Old Goa which is in the close proximity of ancient monuments and bird sanctuary;

(b) whether it is being done against directives of the Coastal Regulation Zone; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to restore this land to its original status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and shall be placed on the table of the House.

Deliberations at the FAO's Food Summit and 2nd International Crop Science Congress

2260. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India participated in FAO's Food Summit in Rome and arranged to hold a week-long meeting recently in New Delhi of Second International Crop Science Congress;

(b) if so, the details of discussion held in Rome and suggestions given, particularly by the former Food and Agriculture Minister, Shri C. Subramaniam in New Delhi and shortcomings pointed out by "Vision 2020" panel of Congress; and

(c) how far FAO's Food Summit and Crop Science Congress meeting in New Delhi proud useful/helpful to increase our food production, introduction of high yielding varieties, etc. of seeds?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At the World Food Summit in Rome, the Heads of State and Governments adopted the Rome Declaration and World Food Summit Plan of Action pledging political will and commitment to the eradiction of hunger and malnutrition and achieving food security for all, through the adoption of concerted policies and actions at the global, regional and national level.

Shri C. Subramaniam, the former Minister of Food and Agriculture called for greater emphasis on micro-level planning in the agricultural sector. He also suggested the need for a comprehensive survey of all the natural resources like soil, water, plant variety and climatic conditions, using modern tools of science and technology like remote sensing.

The Congress Working Group on 'Vision 2020' projected that the demand for food grain in the Asian region in the year 2020 will increase to more than 800 million tonnes. This increase will occur due to population and income growth as also due to increasing preference for livestock products. Massive urbanisation and continued degradation will lead to decline in arable land. Further expansion of irrigation will be costly. Yield gaps will be fully exploited and unless new technological frontiers are established over the next 5—10 years, the productivity growth will not be sustained. Declining cereal prices and raising real wages will erode the profitability of cereal prodcution. Expanded world trade will lead to shifts in area away from food.

(c) The "Plan of Action" adopted by the World Food Summit recommends the promotion of policies and programmes which, *inter-alia* relate to increasing food production, introduction of high yielding varieties, etc. through sustainable management of natural resources, research in agriculture, encouraging appropriate input technologies, use of improved seeds and breeds, Integrated Plant Nutrition methods, prevention and control of plant and animal pests, promotion of conservation and sustainable utilisation of plant and genetic resources of food and agriculture. The Crop Science Congress identified several new technologies which will help increase food production on a sustainable basis. These include developing disease and pest resistant as well as drought and heat tolerant crop varieties, through biotechnology applications with genetic engineering; introduction of